

n September 2005 Ambassador David C. Mulford had an interactive session at the Anjuman-e-Himayath-e-Islam School in Chennai with 60 students who are part of the ACCESS program. ACCESS, a two-year State Department-funded course in English, which provides free, quality English instruction to high school students, was launched in September 2004 in New Delhi, Calcutta and Chennai. The students asked questions enthusiastically and the Ambassador later used a map of the United States to give them a quick geography lesson.

he New Orleans Mardi Gras Indian Collective lit up the evening of November 19, 2005, with their performance at the American Center in New Delhi. The songs and dances were a gesture of thanks to India for its assistance to the people of New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The Indian government donated \$5 million to the American Red Cross, besides more than 25 tons of relief material. Indian percussionist Pandit Fateh Singh Gangani also entertained at the "thank you" concert.



NEWS

ineteen young people who have made outstanding contributions in the fields of iournalism. social service, the arts, IT, finance and law were honored with the Indo-American Society Young Achiever award at a ceremony in Mumbai on December 3, 2005. Enjoying a lively discussion at the event are (left to right) awardees Ankit Fadia, computer security and digital intelligence consultant; Ramesh Venkataraman, partner, McKinsey & Co.; and Hital Meswani, director, Reliance Industries. Ltd., who was on the panel of judges.



ndia's first hydrogen-fueled three-wheeler went on display in September 2005 at the annual convention of the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers in New Delhi. This vehicle of the future is a product of a U.S.-India business alliance forged by USAID's U.S.-Asia Environmental Partnership. Energy Conversion Devices of Troy, Michigan, and Pune-based Bajaj Auto Ltd. worked together on the three-wheeler. Next steps in the project include exploring fuel availability, safety codes and standards.

